

# Sport

## Column One

### DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

**T**HAT ice hockey, pelota (a direct descendant of real tennis), hurling (akin to hockey) and sky-diving are among the fastest non-mechanical sports.

To me the fastest is the one in which your team is playing or the ones which involve class. A World Cup final may seem a fifteen-minute affair; such is the intensity of the drama.

And the slowest? Well, it has to be sumo wrestling. The pre-match rituals take hours. The actual contest may last a few seconds.

But, actually the slowest is when your team is leading 1-0 in a big football match. The last minutes seem never-ending.



**THE SHOOTING STARS:** Bangladesh again hit the bulls' eye through shooters (L-R) G M Haider, Saiful Islam and Nasiruddin Jony in the free rifles three position of the SAF Games shooting competition yesterday. — Star photo by fax (Courtesy — Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association)

## SAF hockey pride at stake today

MADRAS, India, Dec 25: Traditional rivals India and Pakistan warmed up for their keenly-awaited hockey battle during the South Asian Federation (SAF) Games with massive victories here on Sunday night, reports AFP.

The Asian giants, who face off on Tuesday for the first time in six years, went of a goal spree against lowly opponents to heighten the excitement preceding their historic tie.

Mohammad Riaz slammed in five goals, including a hat-trick, as hosts India trounced Nepal 16-0 in their penultimate round-robin league match at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here.

World champions Pakistan thrashed Sri Lanka 12-0 with Naveed Alam, Tahir Zaman and Kamran Ashraf netting three goals each in an awesome display by the highly-skilled forward line.

Pakistan's superior goal difference (37-2) against India's 25-0 leaves the visitors needing only a draw in Tuesday's decider to clinch the gold medal.

**But India must defeat Pakistan to take the title.**

"We are ready to take on Pakistan," said veteran defender Pargat Singh, recalled to lead the Indians at the biennial regional Games.

"There is no pressure on us. We have the resources to win."

Pakistani captain Shahbaz Ahmed said his team will go out to win, even though a draw would suffice. "We play hockey to win, not to settle for lesser results. We will live up to our reputation of world champions," he said.

Home fans are hoping their hockey team will be encouraged by the runaway success of their colleagues in the other 13 disciplines, where India has cornered 79 of the 107 golds decided so far.



A Sri Lankan booter chases the ball as his Bangladeshi counterpart closes in to challenge during their SAF soccer semifinal at Nehru Stadium yesterday. Bangladesh won 5-4 on penalties after 120 minutes of play. — TV photo

## Abahani loot the Bank

**Sports Reporter**

**BRIEF SCORES**

**ABAHANI KC:** 257 for nine in 50 overs (Pilot 69, Durjoy 41, Akram 36; Zakir 3/54, Dipu Roy 2/46, Pial 2/47)

**AGRANI BANK SC:** 155 in 42.4 overs (Anwar 53, Rahad 3/31, Dulu 2/14, Moni 2/19)

Reigning joint champions Abahani Krira Chakra made a cakewalk in the Premier Division cricket league when they outplayed promotees Agrani Bank Sports Club by 102 runs at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

This was the second victory in a row for the Dhanmondi outfit who earlier in their league opener defeated Dhaka Wanderers by 33 runs last Thursday.

Batting first, Abahani collected 257 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs with wicketkeeper batsman Khaled Masud Pilot scoring 69 and all-rounder Naimur Rahman Durjoy slamming 41 runs. In reply, Agrani Bank were sent packing in 42.4 overs with 155 to their credit, 102 runs short of their target.

Put in to bat, Abahani lost their first wicket on 26 when opener Imran Hamid Partho, who scored a half-century against Dhaka Wanderers, was bowled by Bank's new ball bowler Zakir Hossain in the 14th over scoring 13.

The other opener Harunur Rashid Liton and Durjoy added 28 runs in the second wicket stand before Liton (21) returned on 54 after giving a return catch to right hand pacer Abu Hamid Pial in the 14th over.

The next partnership between Durjoy and Pilot doubled the scoreboard (108) in

12.1 overs before Durjoy was trapped leg before by right-arm off-spinner Shariful Haque Plaban in the 26th over. Durjoy's valuable 41 runs came from only 54 balls which includes four boundaries.

Skipper Akram Khan joined Pilot in the 4th wicket stand and the pair took only 88 balls to add a further 80 runs. Pacer Zakir broke the partnership on 188 when he bowled Akram Khan (26) in the 41st over.

But nothing could bother a sedate Pilot who took the score to 220 in the next 4.1 overs along with all-rounder Enamul Haque Moni before he lost his stumps to

Moni (16) and Rahul (15) were the other double-figure Abahani scorers of the day.

Zakir was the most successful Bank bowler who grabbed three wickets conceding 54 runs in 10 overs while Dipu Roy and Pial earned two wickets each giving away 46 and 47 runs respectively.

In reply, Agrani Bank never appeared to be able to contain an aggressive Abahani attack. Specially new ball bowlers Ashfaq Ali Rahad and Jahangir Alam Dulu were too harsh on the Bankers to share five wickets among themselves with their lethal bowling.

Opener Anwar Hossain Chowdhury was the lone Bank batsman who played with some courage. He hit 53 off 71 ball with eight boundaries before he was caught behind off a Moni delivery in the 29th over.

Among others, Pakistani batsman Nasir Ali Khan and Pial added 18 and 17 runs respectively to the Bank account.

Abahani's Rahad took three wickets giving away 31 runs in nine overs while Dulu and Moni bagged two wickets apiece conceding 14 and 19 runs respectively.

Abahani will take on Gulshan Youth Club in their next encounter at the same venue on December 29 while Agrani Bank will meet Victoria Sporting Club on the same day at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.



PILOT... 69

## Lankan grappler indisposed

MADRAS, Dec 25: The Sri Lankan wrestling squad suffered a 'big jolt' when their skipper, V Munisamy, 90 kg category, was hospitalised here with chicken pox, reports PTL.

## SPORTS TALK

**Chris Cairns**  
(New Zealand all-rounder)

"My father is my best guide. He was a role model though we are different players. I would like to be different. I respect dad for what he has done."

**On his father, former Test all-rounder Lance Cairns.**

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## Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

(The rules are published every Saturday)

**Sports WHIZZ KID competition-19**

✓ Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes 8 p.m. Dec 29, 1995)

1. Billie Nastase was famous for playing	Tennis	Football	Cricket
2. "Beamer" is a term used in	Cricket	Rugby	Squash
3. Where is Sabina Park, the famous cricket ground, located?	Jamaica	Barbados	Trinidad
4. Who is Bangladesh's national football coach?	Pleiser	Akramov	Gaffer
5. Tottenham .....?	Hotspurs	United	Rovers

Name: .....

Class: ..... Roll No: .....

School Address: .....

Phone: (if any) .....

## It's two sides of the same coin

PARIS, Dec 25 (AFP): Ajax Amsterdam completed their metamorphosis from top club in Europe to the best club in the world in 1995 when they beat Brazil's Gremio to lift the Inter Continental Cup.

That 4-3 win on penalties, following a 0-0 draw in Tokyo on November 28, stretched their unbeaten run to 66 matches in all competitions and propelled them from Dutch superstars to world beaters.

Off the pitch, a fair share of controversy was also present in 1995 when Eric Cantona was banned for a kung-fu kick, Patrice Loko went off the rails, a German player failed a drugs test, and Dynamo Kiev were banned from the European Champions' Cup.

Gremio, with more of a

physical game than the aesthetic skill of neighbouring Brazilian clubs, were not expected to beat Louis van Gaal's side and Ajax confirmed their favourites status with their usual brand of entertaining, attacking football.

**And, by late December, Ajax had still not lost a Dutch league game since a 2-1 loss to Wilhelm II on May 8 1994 — the last day of the 1993/94 season.**

Of course victory in the European Champion's Cup final on May 24 in Vienna — Ajax's first triumph since winning three years running from 1971-1973 — pushed five-time champion AC Milan into the background.

Ironically Frank Rijkaard, one of dutch trio who masterminded Milan's 1989 and 1990 European Cup wins, switched roles and excelled for Ajax this time.

Rijkaard's angled pass

## Leeds look free of rust

LONDON, Dec 25: Ghanaian Tony Yeboah and fellow striker Brian Deane struck match-winning goals as Leeds upset Manchester United's attempt to close the gap on English Premier leaders Newcastle on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Yeboah scored in the 36th minute and Deane in the 73rd to thrust Leeds to a 3-1 home victory over second-placed United whose second consecutive league defeat left them 10 points behind Newcastle.

Leeds, trounced 6-2 at Sheffield Wednesday last weekend, were given an early lift when Gary McAllister scored from a penalty kick after six minutes.

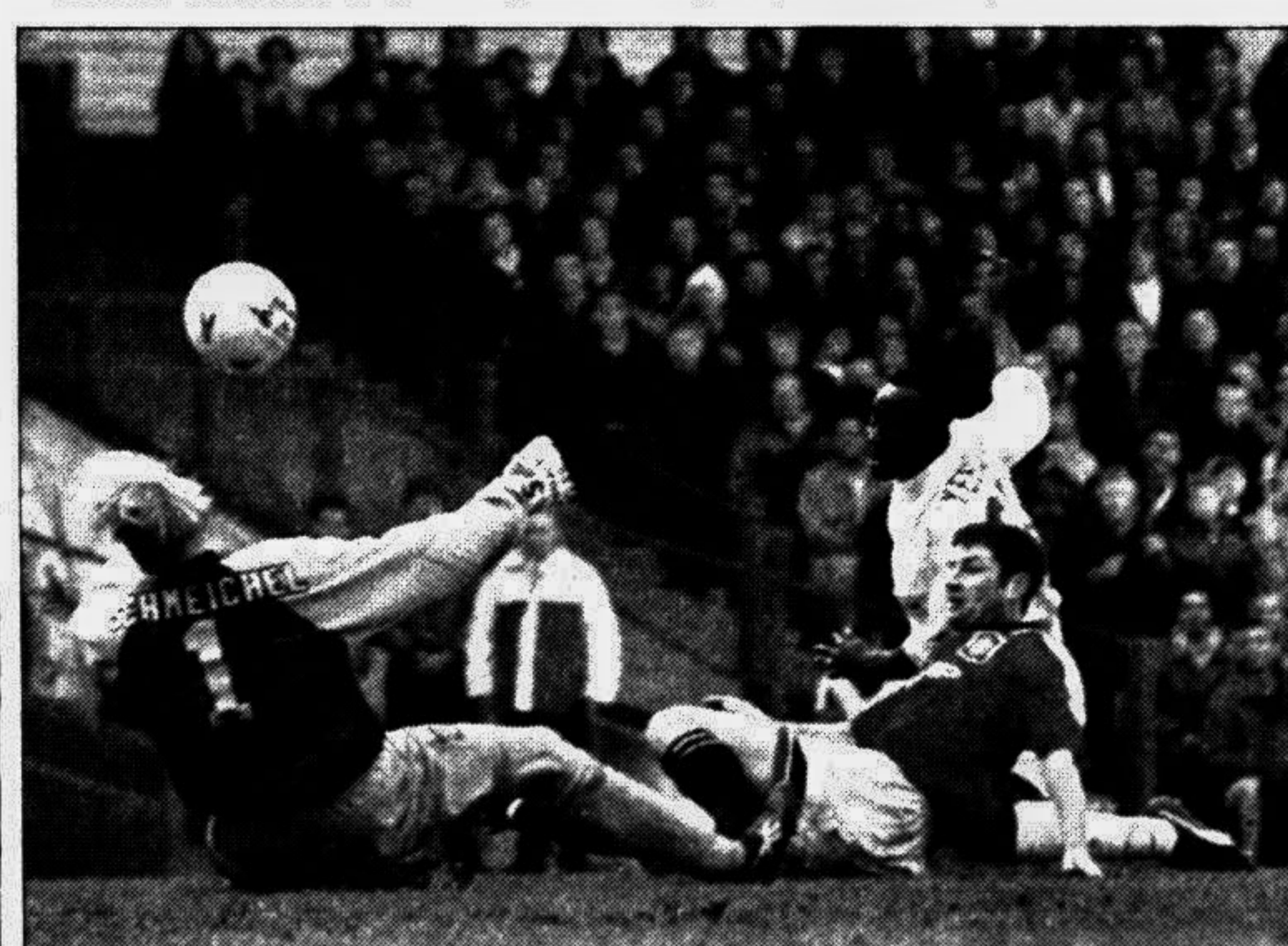
Andy Cole equalised after 30 minutes with only his

fourth goal of the season but Yeboah restored Leeds' advantage six minutes later.

Deane sealed victory for Leeds with a headed goal during a seven-minute period when United played with 10 men while French striker Eric Cantona was off the field receiving stitches to a head wound.

United manager Alex Ferguson, whose side were convincingly beaten 2-0 by Liverpool at Anfield on December 17, recalled Roy Keane after a six-game absence to give the midfield some steel and also included Paul Parker at the back for his first start since September.

Keane worked tirelessly to try to give United control but Parker contributed to his side's downfall with a wretched display, his error leading to Yeboah's goal.



Leeds' Ghanaian international Tony Yeboah (white jersey) places the ball past Manchester United's custodian Peter Schmeichel from a scramble to score the second goal for his team during an English Premier league match at Elen Road, Leeds on Dec 24. Leeds won 3-1. — AFP/UNB photo

Dortmund as the winners of the major leagues.

Madrid clinched their 26th major title — their first since 1990 — to end Barcelona's run of four consecutive Spanish league wins.

Real's 2-1 victory over second-placed Deportivo la Coruna, watched by 105,000 fans at the Bernabeu Stadium, clinched the title.

Chilean Ivan Zamorano hit the winner 10 minutes from time after Brazilian Bebeto had equalised Jose Amavisca's opening goals.

Borussia Dortmund won their fourth German title, their first in 32 years, by beating Hamburg 2-0 at home, while Werder Bremen, leading by a point and with better goal difference, fell 3-1 at Bayern Munich.

Dortmund coach Ottmar Hitzfeld could pat himself on the back with victory, particularly as strikers Stephane Chapuisat, Karl Heinz Riedle, and Denmark's Flemming Povlsen were ruled out through injury late in the season.

Juventus heralded a new era in Italy to win their first title in nine years and become only the fourth team to complete the league and cup double.

Juventus beat Parma 4-0 in Turin to clinch the league, and won 3-0 on aggregate against the same opponents to win the Italian Cup. But Parma at least managed a UEFA Cup win, with a 2-1 aggregate success over Juventus.

The Turin club thanked rejuvenated veteran Gianluca Vialli and new find Alessandro del Piero, who they nearly sold to Parma, for their success.

Roberto Baggio was out injured for half the season, and was even unloaded to AC Milan at the end of the year, proving Juventus could do without the World Cup star.

Nantes won their first league title in 12 years, and seventh in all, but the successful squad was on the verge of dismantling.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Make lace

4 One type of rally

7 Of the type indicated

8 Michelangelo master-piece

10 Cats' hangout

11 "Peer Gynt Suite"

13 Quibbling

17 Susan Lucci role

18 Tokyo's old name

19 Remark re York

20 Cruising

21 Abounding in foliage

23 They're just one thing after another

25 Big bash

26 Elvis kingdom

27 Store owner on "The Simpsons"

28 "Common Sense"

30 Place-kicker's pride

33 Upstairs-funny cover-up

37 Where it pays to know the ropes?

38 Inane

39 Iowa city

40 Scottish uncle

41 Undeniably

42 Tokyo's old name

43 Dumas'

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

**DOWN**

2 Black —

3 A good person to know (last)

4 "War of the Worlds" org.

5 Titular Broadway

6 Actor Brad

7 Bridge coup

8 Some surreal

9 Most in need of rain

10 "Caught in the Act"

12 Llama's milieu

14 Supplicator

15 — long way (last)

19 Motorists' org.

20 Send out invitations

21 Sky-blue

22 Ducks

23 Burr's ex

24 Item in the freezer

25 Patrol

28 Basketball coach Pat

29 One of a Biblical sequel-tum

29 It was eaten in Eden

30 They often go out with sailors

31 Waiter's Caesar

34 Ontario's neighbor

35 Heavy reading

### CRYPTOQUIP

R H D C D J V B D N D N Y Y  
M N V I D B J N I D U N D  
A M F N J B Y S U C J L B A D F I  
R I D U A L B H V S

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE PINE-CLIMBING CONTEST WAS FOR THOSE OF US WANTING TO LIMBER UP.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Y equals L

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.